

ALASKA TRAUMA REGISTRY NEWSLETTER

State of Alaska
Department of Health and Social Services
Division of Public Health
Community Health and Emergency Medical Services

March 2002



We're Back . . .

No, your February newsletter did not get lost in the mail. It went on vacation.



Injury Prevention is . . . In the Bag

Injury prevention is a big job and we desperately need more injury prevention "missionaries" to spread the word.

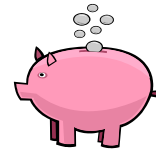
We have recently developed a partnership with Healthy Families Alaska, a program to prevent child abuse and neglect and improve childhood health outcomes through home visitation.

"Injury Prevention in a Bag" is a comprehensive kit for Family Service Workers to carry to the homes of the families they serve. It contains safety devices and educational materials for the parent of an infant or child under six, including safety latches, safety gates, anti-scald thermometers, smoke detectors, electrical outlet covers, reflectors, and poison control magnets and stickers.



Injury Data Speaks . . .

Injury data tells us how injuries occur and at what age infants and children are most affected. Our latest addition to the bag is a piggy bank.



Feed a Pig, Save a Kid

Babies explore their environment by putting anything and everything into their mouths. Choking on and swallowing small objects occurs most often from birth through age two.

More than any other thing, infants swallow coins – 50% of the "swallowing" injuries in the trauma registry involve coins.

Never leave small objects in your baby's reach even for a moment.

Never feed your baby hard pieces of food such as chunks of raw carrots, apples, hot dogs, nuts, or grapes. Cut foods into thin pieces.

A balloon, or pieces of a broken balloon, is the most dangerous toy to choke on because they are so hard to remove if they get stuck in the throat.